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*Bulletin  
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*February 1961 • Vol. XIV • No. 6*

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

## EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
- Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.
- M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.
- NR Not recommended
- SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
- SpR. A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

Except for pre-school years, reading range is given for grade rather than for age of child.

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# Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume XIV

February, 1961

Number 6

## *New Titles for Children and Young People*

NR Allen, Eric. Pepe Moreno; illus. by Hazel Cook. Barnes, 1960. 58p. \$2.50.  
5-6

A rather rambling and highly-colored story about a small Spanish urchin who was a bootblack. Pepe encountered an Englishman (a stereotype of an Englishman, bluff yet kind) who lost his wallet. Pepe admitted to the theft because he thought his friend was suspected; it turned out that a cat had sat on the wallet. The Englishman offered to take Pepe back to England, but Pepe decided against it. Liberally interlarded with Spanish words and with many references to Spanish food or customs, yet no real atmosphere is conveyed.

R Anckarsvärd, Karin. Rider by Night; trans. from the Swedish by Annabelle  
5-7 MacMillan; illus. by Charles W. Walker. Harcourt, 1960. 192p. \$3.25.  
Translated from the Swedish edition of 1958, a lively story about a thirteen-year-old girl and her horse. Especially nice for girls devoted to horse stories because of the different background, this book has other aspects which make it enjoyable for any reader. The setting is one such aspect; others are the good characterization, the relations between Jenny and her siblings, and the quite perceptive description of a friendship that almost dissolves. The book has pace, suspense, and a logical solution to the mystery of who it was that was secretly riding Jenny's horse in the night.

R Ardizzone, Edward. Johnny the Clockmaker. Walck, 1960. 46p. illus. \$3.  
2-4

Johnny was very good at making things, but the only reaction from his family when they heard him hammering was "Drat the boy! Johnny is up to his nonsense again." And that was their reaction when Johnny said he was going to build a grandfather clock. Everybody made fun of the boy except his friend Susannah, and the blacksmith who had helped him get some of the parts. BUT when the grandfather clock was made and it worked, Johnny was praised on every side. He and Susannah set up shop in the smithy with a new sign reading, "Joe, Johnny & Susannah Blacksmiths & Clockmakers." Enchanting illustrations (with ingenuous balloon captions) and a bland, light writing style that suits perfectly the dreams-of-glory plot.

R Arnold, Pauline. Homes; America's Building Business; by Pauline Arnold and  
8- Percival White; illus. by Tom Funk. Holiday House, 1960. 379p. \$4.50.  
The second of a series of books about major American industries (Food: America's Biggest Business was the first). Competently written and comprehensive, with useful check lists about housing details and an extensive index appended. The book is divided into sections on the historical development of homes, the building trades, raw materials, manufacture and applications, and purchasing a home. As an example of the detail into which the authors go: in the section on manufacture, a chapter is de-

voted to lumber and wood products. One division of the chapter discusses manufactured wood, and this is broken down into hardboard, insulation board, particle board, and flakeboard. The laminated woods are then described. A very informative and useful book, written in a dignified (but not dull) style.

R Bannon, Laura May. Hop-High, The Goat; written and illus. by Laura May  
2-4 Bannon. Bobbs-Merrill, 1960. 64p. \$3.25.

A Navaho child, Singing Girl, tells the story of her goat, Hop-High. Convinced that the mischievous young animal can be useful as leader of her father's herd of sheep, Singing Girl is happy when her pet proves himself. The writing style conveys convincingly the directness of a child's speech; the author gives a warm picture of the child herself and of the Navaho people.

NR Bascom, Joe. Malcolm's Job. Lippincott, 1959. 96p. illus. \$2.75.  
1-2

For the beginning independent reader, a book in three episodes about a musical cat. Malcolm found a blue horn on a trash pile and learned to play it; after several rebuffs, Malcolm got a job playing in a restaurant orchestra. The second and third episodes are concerned with trips to Coney Island and to Venice. In the first, Malcolm saves the day by playing music on his horn when the merry-go-round music machine breaks down; in the second he wins the prize at a contest in Saint Mark's square. Except for Malcolm's family, all of the other characters are human—the other members of the orchestra, for example—so that it seems pointless to have a feline protagonist. The writing is dull and the action static; all of the humor is dependent on one idea: that it is funny to see a cat playing a musical instrument.

NR Beecroft, John. What? Another Cat!; pictures by Kurt Wiese. Dodd, 1960.  
4-5 30p. \$3.

A picture book in which the author tells about the way in which a stray kitten was finally accepted by the three cats that were already a part of the household. Although Mr. Beecroft writes with affection and humor about his pets, the book does not seem right for either the read-aloud audience—vocabulary and humor being rather advanced—or for the independent reader who could manage the text but for whom the format is juvenile. The combination of reporting in first person on actual incidents and of ascribing to the cats powers of human speech and motivation is unsuccessful. The audience for this book will probably be limited to the confirmed cat-lover.

R Bible. The Old Testament; arranged and illus. by Marguerite De Angeli.  
4-7 Doubleday, 1960. 256p. \$6.95.

Selections from the King James Version of the Old Testament, simplified and adapted by the illustrator; with profuse illustrations in color and in black and white. The text preserves well the flavor of Biblical language; page numbers are printed in the margins (the width of which contribute to the handsomeness of the oversize pages) below the citation of the Biblical book from which the page text has been adapted. The illustrations have a gentle quality in technique and in restrained use of color. Endpapers show a double-page map of the lands of the Old Testament.

R Boardman, Fon Wyman. Tunnels. Walck, 1960. 144p. illus. \$3.50.  
5-9

Profusely illustrated with excellent photographs, this is a comprehensive history of tunnels, with clear explanations of the ways in which tunnels have been built. Diagrams are clear and are clearly labeled; text is divided into such topics as canal tunnels, railroad tunnels of the western hemisphere, subways around the world, etc. The appended index lists illustrations.

M Bothwell, Jean. The Silver Mango Tree. Harcourt, 1960. 190p. \$3.25.  
7-9

A sequel to The Missing Violin, in which the Tennant family had gone to India to do missionary work. Barbara, returning with her aunt after four college years in California, meets a handsome young Indian in London. He follows her on her voyage; it develops that he is a prince (and the son of the Maharajah who had befriended Mr. Tennant), and he falls in love with Barbara and imperiously announces that they are engaged. Much of the book is devoted to Barbara's friendship with Ranjit's sister-in-law, who is dying of cancer; the main theme is concerned with Barbara's three suitors. Stabbed by Ranjit's wife, of whose existence she was unaware, Barbara is seriously ill when the wound becomes infected. She rejects Ranjit, refuses the hand of a British Earl, and becomes engaged to an older man who has been in love with her since she was sixteen. Good characterization, and the perennial appeal of authentic exotic background, but the plot is elaborate and overly dramatic.

R Brewton, Sara Westbrook, comp. Birthday Candles Burning Bright; A Treasury of Birthday Poetry; selected by Sara and John E. Brewton; decorations by Vera Bock. Macmillan, 1960. 199p. \$3.50.  
3-6

An anthology of poems about birthdays and about growing up. Sections are entitled "To Be a Birthday Child," "Two of Us," "When I Was Christened," "Birthdays Before Seven," "Seven Through Thirteen," "Cakes and Candles," "Growing Up," "Youth and Age," "Birthdays Through Adult Eyes," and "The Birthday of the Lord." Some of the material is very light, most of it is very pleasant, much of it is the work of distinguished authors. Separately indexed by author, title, and first line, and with quite a bit of brief and simple poetry that can be used for reading aloud to younger children.

M Brown, Bill. The Department Store Ghost; by Bill and Rosalie Brown; illus. by Leonard Shortall. Coward-McCann, 1961. 39p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.52 net.  
3-4

In ghostly form, Grandpa Follett visits the store he had founded a hundred years earlier; he can't quite understand what is going on. He gets caught on a conveyor belt, thinks an elevator is a moving closet, bumps into machines and gets caught in a suction tube. Finally, he pokes into the electrical wiring (glowing for a brief moment so that he is recognized by his grandson) and fuses the lights. Grandson decides to let Grandpa Follett push buttons while he stays on the floor, and from then on the nights are filled with electrical gadgets being run by a ghost. Author's stated purpose of showing how a department store is run is not fulfilled. There is humor in the situation, but it is an over-extended device, and the fantasy is quite unbelievable.

M Bruns, Ursula. Ponies. Van Nostrand, 1961. 97p. illus. \$6.75.  
5-7

A book about the wild pony breeds of the world. Both the text style and the organization limit use severely: the book cannot be used as a reference source, since it has neither table of contents nor index—nor is it arranged geographically or alphabetically. There are many pages of photographs (some very clear, others blurred); the text sections refer by page number to the photographs which have coy captions. The text is discursive, informal and rambling. While the book may be of interest to the child who is a lover of horses or ponies, it is not likely to be of much interest to the general reader; there is considerable information scattered through it, but much of the writing is affectionate description or personal reminiscence.



- R Bulla, Clyde Robert. The Sugar Pear Tree; illus. by Taro Yashima. Crowell, 2-4 1960. 54p. \$2.75.

The moving story of Lonnie, who lived with his mother and his great-grandfather in a house that had to be given up because of a highway project. Lonnie has won a pear tree as a prize for composition; in his struggle to keep the tree alive until it can be planted, Lonnie's own story is reflected. The little family finds a home, Lonnie adjusts to a new school: roots are put down. The symbolism is quite unobtrusive, the story being told with great simplicity and dignity. The author has drawn a most perceptive picture of an old man who needs respect and status; the relationships between generations are described with fine understanding.

- R Bulla, Clyde Robert. Three-Dollar Mule; illus. by Paul Lantz. Crowell, 1960. 2-4 86p. \$2.50.

Don wanted a horse for his birthday, but he had not expected to become the owner of a mule. He bought the mule when its owner offered to sell the animal for three dollars, saying it was a mean animal. Don's sister named the mule Sinbad, and Sinbad got into one scrape after another: scared the cows, butted a neighbor, kicked out part of the barn door. Don's father said Sinbad had to go, but changed his mind when the mule saved Don's life. Although the ending is weak, the simplicity of the writing and the naturalness of the dialogue make the book enjoyable; useful for slow older readers, and most useful for independent reading.

- R Bulla, Clyde Robert. A Tree Is a Plant; illus. by Lois Lignell. Crowell, 1960. 1-2 35p. (Let's Read-and-Find-Out Books) Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.35 net.

An excellent introduction to botany for beginning independent readers. The text presents very simply the fact that there are many kinds of trees, that they reproduce by seeding and that an apple tree will be chosen as an example of a tree. The cycle of growth and the seasonal changes, the structure and the functioning of the parts are then described in terms of the apple tree. Pleasantly illustrated and well organized, the greatest asset of the book is in the limitation of information: there is no extraneous information or terminology that might confuse the reader.

- R Burchard, Peter. Jed; The Story of a Yankee Soldier and a Southern Boy; 5-7 drawings by the author. Coward-McCann, 1960. 94p. \$3.

A strong and gentle story. Jed was only sixteen, a Yankee soldier who had already fought in the Battle of Shiloh, and he was disturbed by some of the things the Yankees had done: he felt that foraging was just another name for stealing, for example. When he found a small boy who had been hurt, Jed secretly helped the little Rebel—in fact, he took the boy home and befriended the family. Good characterization and good writing style; the author has made the ethical value of Jed's conduct significant without making it moralistic.

- R Busby, Edith. Behind the Scenes at the Library; illus. with photographs. Dodd, 5-9 1960. 62p. \$2.25.

Comprehensive in scope, a discussion of the many kinds of tasks and services within a library and of the multiple and varied special services or special libraries. Two pages are devoted to each topic; some of these are instructional (how to find a book, or an explanation of the Dewey Decimal Classification) and others are of general interest (college libraries, or books for the blind). Although none of the topics is discussed in depth, a broad and informative picture is given to the reader. Index is appended. The title is not really indicative of the contents of the book, since it implies an emphasis on the functioning of a library, whereas the text actually stresses the varieties of library services.



- R Chambers, Robert Warner. From Cell to Test Tube; The Science of Biochemistry; by Robert Warner Chambers and Alma Smith Payne; drawings by Lilli Mautner. Scribner, 1960. 216p. \$3.50.

A book that gives the history and scope of biochemistry, describing some of the great discoveries made in recent years and their industrial and medical applications. The authors have not written down to their readers, and the book is solid with information and just a bit heavy with terminology that may daunt readers with no background in chemistry or biology. However, the material is so important—the discoveries so exciting—the implications of future research so vital to all mankind—that even the reader to whom the topic is new can enjoy the book. An excellent index is appended, full and carefully cross-indexed.

- R Chauncy, Nan. Devil's Hill; illus. by Geraldine Spence. Watts, 1960. 159p. 6-8 (A Discovery Book) \$2.95.

First published by Oxford University Press in 1958, an unusual book about a family living in the wilds of Tasmania. The descriptions of the country and the flavorful speech lend added zest to the story of a pioneer family visited by three small cousins. Sam, the oldest visitor, was scornful about every aspect of the rough existence at first. On a camping trip to Devil's Hill, Sam learned to enjoy the country when he learned that he could handle his share of the responsibilities. Sam and his cousin Badge became fast friends, and the boys looked forward to the school year when Badge would be going to live with Sam's family.

- Ad Ciardi, John. Scrappy the Pup; illus. by Jane Miller. Lippincott, 1960. 26p. K-2 \$3.

A picture book pleasantly illustrated in pink, black and white; in rhyming couplets, the poet tells of a pup who ought to have been a watch-dog, but did nothing but sleep. The farmer shot a chicken-stealing fox, who knocked over milk cans. Scrappy slept on. Thunder crashed. Scrappy changed position. Only when his feeding dish was broken did the always-hungry pup wake and bark. The ending is rather weak, but this is a pleasant book to read aloud; most of the verse is humorous, but several reiterated phrases have real beauty.

- Ad Clemons, Elizabeth. Shells Are Where You Find Them; illus. by Joe Gault. 3-5 Knopf, 1960. 87p. \$2.75.

A book for the beginning collector. The first section gives general information about where and when to hunt for shells, how to carry and clean them, how to measure, mount, and catalog shells. Section two describes univalves, section three bivalves, section four (very brief) describes chitons. Illustrations are in black and white, the colors being given in the text; the text gives information about the location and habits of the variety as well as identifying it physically. Scientific names are given at the top of the pages, the index using common names, and the material is well-organized. Useful as an introduction, although not as well-written as is Dudley's Sea Shells (Crowell, 1953); although no scientific names are given in Cavanna's First Book of Sea Shells (Watts, 1955) the illustrations are clearer for purposes of identification.

- R Daugherty, James Henry. William Blake; with reproductions of drawings by 8- William Blake. Viking, 1960. 128p. \$4.

An interesting biography of a colorful subject, with emphasis on Blake's work rather than on his personal life, although the latter is quite adequately covered. The author's attitude toward Blake as a man is objective, his enthusiastic appreciation being reserved for the artists verses and engravings. An unpagged section at the back of the book gives 21 reproductions of Blake's illustrations for the Book of Job; these are shown on a full page, with a descriptive paragraph on the facing page. Appended

is a list of the Blake collections in the United States.

R Davis, Russell G. Ten Thousand Desert Swords; The Epic Story of a Great  
7-10 Bedouin Tribe; written by Russell G. Davis and Brent K. Ashabraner;  
illus. by Leonard Everett Fisher. Little, 1960. 155p. \$3.50.

A retelling of the legends of the Bani Hilal, a tribe of Bedouin warriors who lived in ancient times. Written in a style that conveys the feeling of vitality in the epic form. The greatest warrior of the tribe had magical protection, the enemies of the tribe were the most fierce in the world, the women of the tribe the most beautiful. Some concept of both the scope of the book and its style is evident in the first words: "At that time the number of the tribe of Hilal was one." and the last words: "No tribe was as great as the Bani Hilal, but with the four winds they drifted."

M de Leeuw, Adèle Louise. The Rugged Dozen Abroad; by Adèle de Leeuw and  
7-9 Margaret Dudley. Macmillan, 1960. 197p. \$3.

A sequel to The Rugged Dozen; here the girls of a Girl Scout troop go abroad, changing their planned itinerary when they are invited to attend an international Scout meeting. The writing style is fairly pedestrian, and the travel experiences of the troop provide the only element that may be of interest to the general reader, since much of the book concentrates on affairs relating to the Scout organization.

M Dixon, Marjorie. The Forbidden Island; illus. by Richard Kennedy. Criterion  
7-9 Books, 1960. 201p. \$3.50.

A rather elaborate fantasy about an isolated kingdom on a mysterious island off the coast of Ireland. Lindsay MacDonnell, visiting an aunt, is taken to the island when she is eleven; here she meets the boy who is to become king, takes part in a chariot race, learns all the history of a jealously guarded ancient culture. In the second half of the book, Lindsay returns to the island after eight years. Her old friend, now king, is about to "disappear" in a traditional ceremony; Lindsay effects his escape and they are married. A year later they hear that the island has sunk into the sea. The writing has some vitality, but it is obscured by the intricacies of the plot and the complexities of the patterns of life amongst the island people.

Ad Eberle, Irmengarde. Johnny's Island Ark; illus. by Sam Savitt. Watts, 1960.  
4-5 89p. \$2.95.

Johnny, marooned alone with two younger children at Mr. Rolf's farm during a flash flood, saves the horse and cattle belonging to Mr. Rolf. He also protects some of the wild animals who have sought shelter on the high land near the farmhouse. Johnny is happy to have the chance to make such a contribution, because for months he has been saving his money to pay for damage to the Rolf's garden, caused by his carelessness in leaving open a gate through which the cattle got into the plants. The story moves rather slowly until the episode of the flood, but the treatment of Johnny's problem is realistic and sympathetic: his dismay at the damage, his reluctance to tell his parents, and his decision to earn money and pay for new plants.

Ad Elkin, Benjamin. The King's Wish; And Other Stories; illus. by Leonard  
1-2 Shortall. Random House, 1960. 63p. (Beginner Books) \$1.95.

Three connected stories about the king and his three sons. Hearing that their father wants to go fishing, the boys offer to reign, solving their test problem by using brain rather than brawn. In the second episode the king is attacked while fishing and saved by a squirrel that he had befriended; in the third story, the king sounds a fire alarm by shooting an arrow at a bell. Not outstanding, but useful as supplementary material for the beginning independent reader.

NR Erickson, Phoebe. Just Follow Me; story and pictures by Phoebe Erickson.

- 1 Follett, 1960. 32p. (Beginning-To-Read Books) Trade ed. \$1; Library ed. \$1.08 net.

Little Dog thought that maybe he was lost; he asked a rabbit, a beaver, a fox, and a raccoon where home was, and each led him to their own home. Finally a lamb with whom he was playing led Little Dog back to the farm and his mother. A slight and pointless story, with sentimental and pedestrian illustrations, with a minimal use by beginning readers.

- Ad Fern, Eugene. The Most Frightened Hero. Coward-McCann, 1961. 53p. illus. K-2 Library ed. \$3.29 net; Trade ed. \$3.50.

Duncan Campbell went to visit his aunt and uncle, who lived in the highlands. Used to city life, Duncan was afraid to jump and climb as the country children did, and they made fun of him. He practiced, and he had a chance to prove his bravery when one of the girls was caught in a cave; the other boys were afraid to go into Corlie's Cave, and Duncan rescued Kathy. Duncan was feted, and Kathy knew that it wasn't always the strongest muscles that proved the bravest heart. Duncan's persistence and courage are commendable, and his performance credible; the weak point of the story is in the reluctance of the other children to climb up and rescue Kathy, presumably based only on their fear of the cave—a fear not shared by Kathy. Attractive illustrations, and a story that has unity and simplicity.

- M Foster, Willene K. Seeds Are Wonderful; by Willene K. Foster and Pearl 2-3 Queree; illus. by Arnold Dobrin. Melmont, 1960. 32p. \$1.88.

Although the material is adequately organized and quite simply stated, the presentation is weakened by incomplete statements or misleading ones. For example: "All seeds have covers. Nature gives them more than one cover." is followed by some pages on outside covers, but no mention of inside covers that surround the seed. A generalized statement that may lead to erroneous thinking is illustrated by the sequence, "Now there are many flowers on the plant. The bees and the butterflies come. The humming birds come. They drink the honey from the flowers." The drawing shows a tree, and humming birds do not visit all plants. Almost all of the information in the book is to be found in Selsam's Seeds and More Seeds (Harper, 1959), which is better-written as scientific material and has humor in text and illustrations. The small amount of factual material that is in the Foster book (and not in the Selsam) is relevant but not important information.

- Ad Frazier, Neta (Lohnes). Something of My Own. Longmans, 1960. 212p. \$3.25. 7-9

Charlotte, during her freshman year at college, had discovered she was in love with Drew, whom she'd known all her life. Although she was sure that she really wanted marriage and children, Char resented Drew's attitude on women's role. Charlotte's capability at her summer job on a newspaper finally convinced Drew. Into this main theme, very well handled, are woven some well-integrated sub-plots; one of these is a bit melodramatic: Charlotte's younger brother and a friend of his become involved with a criminal-in-hiding, a maniac shoplifter and a blackmailer who has planted a bomb in a grocery store. With the exception of several minor characters, characterization is good, and family relationships are excellent.

- R Goudey, Alice E. Here Come the Bees!; illus. by Garry MacKenzie. Scribner, 2-4 1960. 94p. \$2.50.

An excellent book about the honeybee. Beginning with a vivid description of a swarm, the author describes the bee colony and its division of responsibilities. In telling of the life cycle and of the activities of one particular bee, the text and the illustrations combine most effectively. Both are clear in the way they give information, and the organization of material is good. Two brief sections are appended: one on the subject of honey, and one that describes bees related to the honeybee.

Ad Grice, Frederick. Aidan and the Strolling Players; illus. by William Stobbs. 7-9 Duell, 1960. 168p. \$3.

A novel in somewhat picaresque style. Aidan, who knows nothing about his parents, runs away from his cruel uncle and joins a theatrical troupe. When the company disbands, Aidan and his friend Jeremy strike out alone; after many adventures they advance to juvenile leads with a reputable company. The background of theatrical life in England 150 years ago is colorful, and the characters—some of whom tend toward stereotype—vivid and amusing. The writing style is rather florid, and the ending is weak: Aidan inherits the family property and suddenly decides to give up theatrical life and become a squire.

M Hall, Marjory. A Hatbox for Mimi. Funk and Wagnalls, 1960. 248p. \$2.95. 7-9

Miriam Spain, oldest of six daughters, decides that she will organize the family housekeeping so that the others will share the work, enabling her to get a job. She works up from salesgirl to model, goes to New York, eventually gets her picture on the cover of a leading fashion magazine and acquires the son of her former employer as a boy-friend. Routine career-story plot and mediocre style in writing; there is a modicum of interest in the details of the world of the fashion-show.

R Halliburton, Richard. Complete Book of Marvels. Bobbs-Merrill, 1960. 7- 640p. illus. \$5.95.

A new edition of the durably fascinating descriptions of some of the great scenic wonders of the world, natural or man-made. The edition is not revised, but new information has been inserted within brackets: for example, the section on Mount Everest has two sentences inserted to indicate that the political situation has changed; the section on the great Wall of China brackets Peiping after Peking and Manchuria after Manchukuo. Maps and illustrations show present conditions; a guide to pronunciation is appended. The edition closes with a section entitled "Richard Halliburton's Last Adventure," which is made up of excerpts from letters and newspaper articles describing the last voyage on the Sea Dragon, lost at sea.

R Hauff, Wilhelm. Dwarf Long-Nose; tr. by Doris Orgel; illus. by Maurice 4-6 Sendak. Random House, 1960. 62p. \$2.95.

A translation of a well-known German fairy tale, delightfully illustrated. Jacob, a handsome only child, offended a witch who transformed him into a misshapen dwarf; after seven years he discovered his new and awful form. Serving a nobleman as a skilled chef, Dwarf Long-Nose spared the life of a goose who told him that she was a bewitched maiden. In traditional style, both the young people regain their true forms and are happily wed. A satisfying tale, with the legend style and detail felicitously preserved by the translator. A good version for reading aloud.

R Henry, Marguerite. Gaudenzia; Pride of the Palio; illus. by Lynd Ward. Rand 6-9 McNally, 1960. 237p. \$3.95.

Based on real events, the exciting story of the Palio, the annual horse race held in the city of Siena with all the color and pomp of medieval tradition. Giorgia Terni dreamed of riding in the Palio and toward that goal he bent all his time and energy; he adored Gaudenzia, a mare that eventually broke all Palio records. A vivid and absorbing story, beautifully illustrated. It seems unnecessary for the author to have used the device of having the Italian characters use awkward English to capture the flavor of a foreign tongue: "That is fine reason why it will always be." . . . "Your wife is a nurse most competent." . . . "Signor Ramalli, his house I must find."

M Hoff, Syd. Ogluk the Eskimo; story and pictures by Syd Hoff. Holt, 1960. 48p. K-2 \$2.50.

A small Eskimo boy catches cold and is sent to live with his Aunt Hattie in the tropics. Ogluk learns to swim, to tell a log from a sleeping alligator, to look out for falling coconuts. He becomes a hero when he rescues a butcher who has been locked in a freezer, the police and fire departments refusing to go in because it is too cold. There is humor in the illustration, and occasionally in the text; the book is weakened by many implausible concepts that are misleading rather than entertaining: playing with walruses (a device that is not carried through), Aunt Hattie, who does not appear to be an Eskimo, the dangers of encounters with coconuts or alligators. The book has some use for independent reading.

R Ik, Kim Yong. The Happy Days; illus. by Artur Marokvia. Little, 1960. 216p. 5-7 \$3.50.

The story of an orphaned Korean boy Sang Chun who came to live with his grandfather and uncle; Sang Chun and his cousin Koo soon became fast friends. The main theme of the book is the slow struggle to establish a school—a struggle that meant sacrifice of time and effort. Sang Chun learns responsibility when he works to help Mija buy back the flute she has sold to pay for a loss caused by the boys—he learns about consequences when Koo is sent away for the prank that caused the loss—he learns about sorrow when Koo dies while hauling logs for the school. Good writing style, well-differentiated characters, unusual background.

M Jakeman, Alan. Getting To Know Japan; illus. by Don Lambo. Coward-McCann, 4-6 1960. 64p. \$2.50.

A description of present-day Japan, with a brief section of historical background. The treatment is rather superficial: for example, "In 1853, Commodore Perry of the United States Navy steamed into Tokyo Bay and forced Japan to come out of isolation." does not explain how this was accomplished. The text is continuous and therefore moves, in some places, abruptly from one topic to another. Pronouncing glossary, brief historical list of events, and a one-page index are appended. The book is not as well-written as Mears' The First Book of Japan (Watts, 1953) or as informative as Caldwell's Let's Visit Japan (John Day, 1959).

M Kaula, Edna Mason. The First Book of Australia. Watts, 1960. 59p. illus. 4-6 \$1.95.

An introduction, adequate but superficial. History and geography are discussed briefly; some of the principal cities are described and one page is devoted to the government. The people who have settled in Australia and the aborigines—the fauna and flora—the music and dancing—all these are given cursory treatment. Some information is given about such random topics as the Snowy Mountains Project or the Flying Doctor Service. While the reader may gain some impressions about the continent, and will certainly acquire some facts, he may well find the text confusing. It combines dry factual passages (that on government, for example) with chatty passages of local color (the page on the hoboes or "swagmen"). Illustrations are unattractive, although some are informative.

R Lee, Laurie. The Wonderful World of Transportation; by Laurie Lee and David 6-9 Lambert. Garden City, 1960. 93p. illus. \$2.95.

A comprehensive history of transportation, profusely illustrated in a variety of techniques and well indexed. From man's first efforts to make carrying easier by using sledges, drags and balanced baskets the text progresses to wheels and wheeled vehicles, thence to wheeled vehicles and the bridges and roads on which they ran. Water transport is described in the same chronological pattern, from simple coracles to the huge tankers and the atomic submarine. The last section is devoted to air travel; in all sections of the book the authors explain principles of operation, such as the problem of overcoming both gravity and friction on land and the shock wave problem in supersonic flight.

NR Lloyd, Pamela. Ikerchat and Sarah; story and pictures by Pamela Lloyd.

3-5 Reilly and Lee, 1960. 32p. \$2.

yrs.

The story of a little girl who loved all animals; Sarah found a sick chicken, nursed it back to health and taught it tricks. Ikerchat became very tame and liked to sit on Sarah's shoulder. When Sarah had to go away to boarding school she left Ikerchat with a neighbor, and when she came back Ikerchat was as glad to see her as she was to see him. Although the story stresses kindness to animals, it is written in a pedestrian style and with slow pace. The illustrations are mediocre in execution and dull in color.

Ad Lopshire, Robert. Put Me in the Zoo. Random House, 1960. 61p. illus.  
1-2 (Beginner Books) \$1.95.

A large spotted animal, evicted when he tries to join a zoo, shows a boy and girl all the wonderful things he can do with his spots. He can change their color, throw them into the sky, make them smaller or larger, put them on the children, etc., etc. The magic is a bit labored, the nonsense type of humor depending heavily on the illustrations. Useful as supplementary material for beginning independent readers.

M McGrath, Thomas. The Beautiful Things; drawings by Chris Jenkyns. Vanguard, 1960. 40p. \$3.50.

4-6 yrs.

One of the birthday presents that Danny received was a new word—his sister gave him the word "beautiful" and took him out for a walk to show him what the beautiful things were. They were things like the sun and the river, things like the bridge and the birds. Some of the concepts presented are poetic, some confusing, some quite concrete: "THE BIRDS: Swim through the air like fish in the sea." or "THE ANIMALS: Mostly have fur coats and wear them all the time. . . ." Some of the ideas may be confusing to some children who cannot grasp the humor or the imagery (the bridge . . . "puts a roof on the river, and holds the two sides of the river together . . .") but the book may stimulate children to a fresh look at familiar environmental factors. Illustrations are lively in technique and color, although a few are distractingly full.

Ad McKown, Robin. Janine. Messner, 1960. 191p. \$2.95.  
7-9

Janine, whose father had disappeared after being last heard of in prison camp, lived in a small French mining town. At seventeen, she was attracted to her old friend Alain, but didn't realize that she loved him until he had had a flirtation with the American pen pal who came to visit her. Interesting background, with a very convincing atmosphere. Details vary because of the setting, but the plot is not dissimilar to the teen-age formula romance. Characterization is good, the writing style is weakened by quite trite phraseology. A happy variation on the formula plot is in the fact that father does not appear in the last few pages as a glad surprise.

R Manley, Seon, ed. Teen-Age Treasury of Good Humor. Funk and Wagnalls, 1960. 334p. \$4.95.

A happy compilation of poems, short stories and excerpts from novels and other longer works. The array of authors is impressive, ranging from Shakespeare (a scene from Midsummer Night's Dream) to Thurber ("The Night the Bed Fell"). A brief paragraph preceding each selection gives the reader some information about the work; an appended section gives a brief amount of biographical information about each author. Useful for story telling and book talks for older readers.

NR Mommens, Norman. Fifofus and the Red Indians; written and illus. by Norman  
4-5 Mommens. Barnes, 1960. 28p. \$2.75.

Picture book format may discourage perusal by independent readers who can manage the vocabulary. A rather nice beginning for reading aloud to younger children: lion cub, annoyed by the fact that his short legs cause him to get his furry tummy wet with dew, envies the clever Indians who can walk on their hind legs. However, the story gets increasingly complicated: Fifofus listens to a chief reading in his wigwam and part of the tale includes a modern-day bus. Enter the medicine man (in medieval dress) with a powder horn filled with toffee, and he and the chief go off hunting buffalo. A bad cowboy enters the scene, Fifofus saves the day and goes home with the chief, having learned to walk upright by carrying a gun. For a read-aloud picture book, the book is too long. For independent reading, the vocabulary is difficult for readers to whom the subject might appeal.

M 3-5 yrs. Moore, Nancy. Ermintrude; pictures by Edward Leight. Vanguard, 1960. 40p. \$2.50.

The story of a vain centipede named Ermintrude, who saw a sign that said, "A pretty girl wears pretty shoes." She bought fifty pairs of shoes of all kinds; when one of the shoes (she didn't know which one) began to pinch, Ermintrude needed the help of the friends she had snubbed in her vanity to get all the shoes off. She concluded that she would put up a substitute sign reading, "Pretty is as pretty does." Amusing, but slight; the text is a bit contrived, the illustrations have a charming lightness and gaiety.

M 7-9 Nickerson, Jan. New Boy in Town. Funk and Wagnalls, 1960. 214p. \$2.95.

Nancy Jo was impressed as soon as she met the new boy in the senior class, and was even more impressed when she discovered the intellectual atmosphere in which his family lived. Ashamed of her own family, Nancy Jo came to realize that John and his parents liked people for what they were and that her own values had been at fault. While the love interest and the peer group relationships are handled in a patterned manner and the writing style is fairly pedestrian, there is merit in the way that Nancy Jo matures in her attitudes toward people and toward her education.

SpR 4-6 Parker, Edgar. The Enchantress. Pantheon, 1960. 39p. illus. \$3.25.

A sophisticated variant of the fairy tale; the humor may well be enjoyed by all children, but will be most appreciated by the perceptive reader. A Beautiful princess with magical powers assigns to her suitors the traditional three tasks, and these are accomplished by the traditional poor young Knight. However, the princess herself takes a hand in this version: she doesn't plan to fall in love with the knight, but when she is smitten, she decidedly helps the boy along. The illustrations are unusual in technique and are also for the sophisticated child.

R 6-9 Parker, Elinor Milnor, comp. 100 More Story Poems; illus. by Peter Spier. Crowell, 1960. 374p. \$3.95.

An excellent anthology, separately indexed by author, title, and first line. The compiler has divided the selections into such categories as ballads, humorous poetry, love poems, Christmas material, fantasy, etc. Clear type size and wide margins facilitate reading. Useful in elementary and high-school collections.

R 7- Petersen, Grete. Creative Leathercraft. Sterling, 1960. 92p. illus. \$2.95.

A useful book for the hobbyist, with instructions and diagrams that are simple enough to be used by the beginner. The author, a teacher of leathercraft and sewing, first gives general instructions on details of cutting and sewing; with a listing of



tools and materials she includes advice on using the equipment. The major portion of the book gives instructions for making articles, and these are all in excellent taste; for each one the reader is given step-by-step instruction, with photographs of the finished product to supplement the scaled diagrams. Instructions refer back by number to the general instructions at the beginning of the book.

M Redman, Sylvia Berger. Do You Want to Hear a Secret; pictures by Leonard Weisgard. Lothrop, 1960. 30p. \$2.75.

yrs.

A baby bird learns to fly, and she meets a baby squirrel, and they talk to the wind; then they meet a baby honey-bee who had just been born. They decide they are hungry, and they separate, planning to meet again and see the world on the next day. The illustrations are soft and pleasant, but the story is diffuse and ends weakly. The secret referred to in the title is the fact that the other animals are also new-born, but this bears very little relation to what small plot there is.

NR Rees, Elinor. About Our Flag; illus. by Jerome W. Bowen. Melmont, 1960. 3-5 32p. \$1.88.

A useful book, although written in a rather dull style. A fictionalized and unauthenticated account of the making of the first flag by Betsy Ross is given first; this is followed by text and illustrations that show changes in the flag up to the present. Included in the text is a list of the states of the union, and the years in which they were admitted. The remainder of the book gives information about the protocol of flying the flag and about saluting and handling it; this is the sort of material that is available in encyclopedias. Illustrations are exceedingly poor.

R Ripley, Elizabeth (Blake). Botticelli. Lippincott, 1960. 68p. illus. \$3. 7-10

Another handsome volume in the author's series of biographies of great artists. Each page of text is faced by a black and white reproduction of a Botticelli painting; the index, bibliography and list of illustrations make the book most useful for art collections. Mrs. Ripley has done more, however, than write a book that is merely informative; she writes vividly of Botticelli's life in Florence and of the colorful and exciting world of the Renaissance.

R Ross, George E. Know Your Government; illus. by Seymour Fleishman. Rand-6-9 McNally, 1959. 72p. \$2.95.

A useful compilation of information about the national government: its major divisions and the functioning of each, the way in which the government began, the famous documents of the United States, and a section on the political parties and the role of the voter. The illustrations are rather pedestrian, but charts and diagrams are excellent and can be used for ready reference by students below sixth grade for whom the text is difficult.

R Russell, Solveig Paulson. From Rocks to Rockets; illus. by Bette J. Davis. 2-3 Rand-McNally, 1960. 62p. \$2.75.

Although the title is somewhat misleading (the text does not discuss rockets) this is a lucid and simple book about the evolution of basic tools. Mrs. Russell describes the first uses of the plane, wedge, lever, and wheel after the long years in which the first men used rocks and sticks in rude fashion. Familiar examples of present-day applications of such tools are given—and are amplified by the illustrations. The book concludes with brief references to some of the recent and more complicated advances that have emerged from man's cumulation of knowledge.

Ad Schuyler, Ruby. Corky Meets a Space Man; by Ruby Schuyler and Naoma Zimmerman. Reilly and Lee, 1960. 32p. illus. (Easy-To-Read Books). \$2. Corky and Pete, having seen a man-made satellite, have the subject of spacemen very much in mind; while playing ball the boys see a spaceman, who beckons them toward the school and a spaceship. Credulous and nervous, the boys are relieved and chagrined to find that the "spaceman" is Corky's brother Tom, costumed for a play. Because the ending is a let-down, the book is weakened; the writing style is rather stilted, and the use of a controlled vocabulary indicates that the chief use of the book will be as supplementary material for reading practice. The reading interest level will extend use of the book for slow readers in third and fourth grade.

Ad Shannon, Terry. About Caves; illus. by Charles Payzant. Melmont, 1960. 48p. 3-5 \$1.88.

A good introduction to the subject. The first chapters each describe a different kind of cave and explain the ways in which each kind is formed, giving an example of a well-known cave of that type. Succeeding chapters discuss some of the famous cave discoveries, and in these latter chapters the writing style is quite pedestrian. The book does not give as much information as Hamilton's The First Book of Caves (Watts, 1956) nor does it convey atmosphere in the same way, but it is adequate for the somewhat younger reader.

M Snyder, Dick. One Day at the Zoo; story and photographs by Dick Snyder. 3-5 Scribner, 1960. 45p. \$2.95.  
yrs.

A compilation of photographs, many of them interesting, with a rather labored text. Each page has a sentence or two accompanying a photograph; the animals in the zoo are described as they start their day. Then the burro tells the other animals to wake up because this may be the day. Much anticipation and conjecture is displayed by all the inhabitants; the great surprise turns out to be a baby koala. The ending is not only anticlimactic; it strikes a flagrantly unrealistic note, since animals seldom are impressed by other species of animals arriving, and since the animals in a zoo do not gather in one place as a welcome committee. It is the photographs that give the book some minimal value.

NR Stoutenburg, Adrien. Good-by, Cinderella. Westminster, 1960. 173p. \$2.95. 7-9

Three girls live together: Carol, in love with her boss, Abby, who falls in love with Carol's half-brother, and Sandra, who loves a man who hasn't told her he is married. The story centers on Carol, who knows that her boss is her intellectual superior and who fears that her brother will make Abby unhappy. Although Carol realizes in the end that she must find new interests, she is satisfied that the other girl's affairs have turned out well. Fairly routine plot, and quite pedestrian writing with a tendency toward elaborate phrases: Carol looks up from "the corner of a dark, heavily lashed eye" and she sees "the moon propping its elbow on the horizon once more."

M Trento, Florence. The Geese That Sang; illus. by J. L. Pellicer. Morrow, 3-4 1960. 48p. \$2.50.

Kerry bought three goslings to raise, and he found them engaging pets; he was delighted to find that the goslings peeped back at him when he sang "Peep, peep, peep." to them. As the goslings grew, they became more troublesome; Kerry's father said that he would have to sell them if they bit people. Not until Kerry himself had been painfully bitten by the gander did he agree to the sale—but he decided to use his profits to buy more goslings. A realistic but rather dull story, the writing being static and the conversation and plot development labored.

R Unnerstad, Edith. The Journey with Grandmother; illus. by Claes Bäckström.  
4-6 Macmillan, 1960. 197p. \$3.

Translated from the Swedish, the story of a year's trip made by a boy of twelve just after the turn of the century. Anders and his grandmother and aunt were haircraft workers; in order to make money to send back home, they went to Stockholm, Helsingfors, and St. Petersburg to make and sell their goods. Everywhere he went, Anders made interesting friends: the gamine in Stockholm who would do anything to earn money for books, the hostile Brunte who became a pal, and—in Russia—a lively and colorful assortment of people. The characters are vivid and real, the atmosphere of period and places convincing, and Anders had adventures that are described in a writing style that has pace and flavor.

R Weeks, Sara. Tales of a Common Pigeon; illus. by Eric Von Schmidt. Houghton,  
4-6 1960. 121p. \$2.75.

In a writing style that is sedate yet lightly humorous, Old Blue reminisces about some of his friends and about their adventures as residents of the Boston Common. Some of the incidents have to do with the local humans (all of whom look very much alike "except that some are large and some are small"), some with real events such as a hurricane, some with minor ploys in the lives of the local sparrows or squirrels. A very pleasant book.

R Weiss, Harvey. The Expeditions of Willis Partridge; illus. by the author.  
K-2 Abelard-Schuman, 1960. 39p. \$2.75.

Willis, a boy with a vivid imagination, is on his way to school. Everything Willis sees or hears sends him off on another daydream—usually a daydream of glory. Reality and fantasy alternate on double page spreads: Willis sees a crack in the sidewalk (text on one page, illustration facing) and with the turn of the page one sees a daring Willis Partridge hovering over an Alpine crevasse. The illustrations are colorful and amusing; the text deals deftly with clichés at which the author is poking fun, and the book is all the better for not extending the theme too far.

M Whittam, Geoffrey William. People of the World; Volume II; Lumbering in Can-  
5-7 ada; Cattle Raising in Australia; Tea Growing in Ceylon; Fur Hunting and  
Fur Farming in Canada; by Geoffrey William Whittam and others. Walck,  
1960. 128p. illus. \$2.75.

Title is somewhat misleading, even as part of a series, since each of the four sections of the book deals with a particular industry within the country: lumbering in Canada, fur hunting and fur farming in Canada, tea growing in Ceylon, and cattle raising in Australia. Mr. Whittam is the author of the two Canadian sections, each of the other parts is the work of a pair of authors. While there is information given about the people involved, for example, in the tea-plucking process on a Ceylonese plantation, that information is about a small group rather than the whole population. The sections on Canada are factual and dry in style, the other two sections have a narrative quality.

NR Wilde, Irma, illus. Farm Animals; (pictures by Irma Wilde). Grosset, 1960.  
3-4 23p. \$1.50.

A baby duck, looking for its mother, meets various animals who have not seen Mother Duck; Mother Pig finally tells Baby Duck that his mother is down by the pond, and there he finds her. Heavy pages show the different farm animals in double-page spreads with drawing in sentimental style; the two lines of text accompanying each illustration provide a very slight vehicle. A quite run-of-the-mill animal picture book.

M Will. The Little Tiny Rooster; by Will and Nicolas. Harcourt, 1960. 28p.  
K-2 \$3.25.

Much to his mother's surprise, the little tiny rooster emerged from his shell no big-

ger than a grasshopper—and he stayed tiny. All the other animals on the farm were especially friendly with the little tiny rooster, but he never received any recognition from his own kind. His offer to watch for the thief who was stealing eggs was spurned, but the little tiny rooster stayed awake, saw the fox, and gave the alarm that sent all the animals to route the thief. The next morning the little tiny rooster joined the barnyard leader and together they crowed to start the day. The theme is an old one: the different one who is spurned until he proves his worth; the treatment is adequate, but not unusual. The illustrations are colorful and vigorous.

Ad Wilson, Barbara Ker. The Lovely Summer; illus. by Marina Hoffer. Dodd, 8-10 1960. 192p. \$3.25.

The most interesting aspect of the story of two English girls is the period in which it is set: before and during World War I. Helen's family is wealthy and Vanessa's of moderate means, but both girls are enthusiastic about the Suffragette movement. Their lives diverge because of their positions, but the war brings the two together again and brings to each of them a suitor. The motif of the book is the Suffragette movement, and the author gives a good deal of factual material about its followers in England. Characterization is good; the writing style has pace, but it has also a rather abrupt quality in the shift from one place or time to another, or from narration to dialogue.

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## *Reading for Librarians*

- American Library Association. A Basic Book Collection for Junior High Schools, 3d. ed. Ed. by Margaret V. Spengler. American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago 11, Illinois. 136p. \$2.00.
- American School Counselor Association and American Association of School Librarians. Librarians and Counselors Work Together. 1960. 7p. Free copies of this leaflet available from the ASCA, 1605 New Hampshire Ave., N.W., Washington 9, D. C.
- Chicago Teachers College, Dept. of Library Science. Cataloging and Processing Procedures for Elementary School Libraries. From the college, 6800 Stewart Ave., Chicago 21, Illinois. Single copies, \$1.
- Cole, Tom J. "The Elementary School Library." Peabody Journal of Education, September 1960, pp. 82-84.
- Cummings, Sherwood. "What's in Huckleberry Finn?" The English Journal, January 1961, pp. 1-8.
- Douglas, Mary Peacock. Books and Beyond. San Jose State College, 1960. \$2. Order from the Spartan Book Store, San Jose State College, San Jose 14, California.
- Gallup, George. "You Can't Get Ahead Unless You Read." Ladies Home Journal, August, 1960.
- Jacobs, Leland. "Another Look at the Fairy Tales." The Reading Teacher, November 1960, pp. 108-11.
- Logasa, Hannah. Historical Fiction, 7th rev. ed. and Historical Non-Fiction, 7th rev. ed. The former, 316p. \$6.50; the latter 288p. \$6.50. McKinley, 1960.
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- Mahar, Mary H. State Department of Education Responsibilities for School Libraries. U. S. Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1960. Distributed by the U. S. Gov. Printing Office. \$.35.
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- Rafferty, Gerald. "When Rockets Rock the Library." National Parent-Teacher, January 1961. pp. 33-34.
- Scott, Foresman and Co., 433 E. Erie St., Chicago will send without charge single copies of two publications: "Five Lessons to Help Your Junior High School Students Learn to Use Library Reference Tools." and "Bringing Middle-graders and Books Together."
- Veatch, Jeanette. "In Defense of Individualized Reading." Elementary English, April 1960. pp. 227-34.



